

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

RONICIA BENJAMIN,

v.

BARRY L. BRESLOW, *et al.*,

Petitioner,

Respondents.

Case No. 3:22-cv-00409-ART-CSD

**Order Granting Application to
Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* and
Setting Briefing Schedule**

(ECF No. 7)

The court provisionally appointed the Federal Public Defender to represent Ronicia Benjamin in this 28 U.S.C. § 2254 habeas corpus matter. (ECF No. 4.) Benjamin's application to proceed *in forma pauperis* is granted. (ECF No. 7.) On November 23, 2022, Martin Novillo of the Federal Public Defender's Office appeared on behalf of petitioner. (ECF No. 8.)

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that petitioner's application to proceed *in forma pauperis* (ECF No. 7) is **GRANTED**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that counsel for petitioner meet with petitioner as soon as reasonably possible to: (a) review the procedures applicable in cases under 28 U.S.C. § 2254; (b) discuss and explore with petitioner, as fully as possible, the potential grounds for habeas corpus relief in petitioner's case; and (c) advise petitioner that all possible grounds for habeas corpus relief must be raised at this time and that the failure to do so will likely result in the omitted grounds being barred from future review under the rules regarding abuse of writ.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that counsel for petitioner file an amended petition for writ of habeas corpus within **90 days**, which includes all known grounds for relief (both exhausted and unexhausted).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that respondents file a response to the petition within **90 days** of service of the petition. Petitioner will then have **45 days** from

1 service of the answer, motion to dismiss, or other response to file a reply or
2 opposition. Any other motions will be subject to the normal briefing schedule
3 under the local rules.

4 Any response to the petition must comport with Habeas Rule 5.
5 Additionally:

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7 1. Any procedural defenses raised by respondents in this case must be
8 raised together in a single, consolidated motion to dismiss. In other
9 words, the court does not wish to address any procedural defenses raised
10 herein either in seriatum fashion in multiple successive motions to
11 dismiss or embedded in the answer. Procedural defenses omitted from
12 the motion to dismiss will be subject to potential waiver.
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14 2. Respondents must not file a response in this case that consolidates their
15 procedural defenses, if any, with their response on the merits, except
16 under 28 U.S.C. § 2254(b)(2) as to any unexhausted claims clearly
17 lacking merit. If respondents do seek dismissal of unexhausted claims
18 under § 2254(b)(2): (a) they must do so within the single motion to
19 dismiss, not in the answer, and (b) they must specifically direct their
20 argument to the standard for dismissal under § 2254(b)(2) set forth in
21 *Cassett v. Stewart*, 406 F.3d 614, 623–24 (9th Cir. 2005). In short, no
22 procedural defenses, including exhaustion, should be included with the
23 merits in an answer. All procedural defenses, including exhaustion, must
24 instead be raised by motion to dismiss.
- 25
26 3. In any answer filed on the merits, respondents must specifically cite to and
27 address the applicable state-court written decision and state-court record
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1 materials, if any, regarding each claim within the response as to that claim;
2 and

- 3 4. Respondents must file a set of state court exhibits relevant to the
4 response filed to the petition. Those exhibits must be filed chronologically
5 and be accompanied by a separate index of exhibits identifying the
6 exhibits by number. The CM/ECF attachments that are filed must be
7 identified by the number or numbers of the exhibits in the attachment.
8 The purpose of this provision is to allow the court and any reviewing
9 court thereafter to quickly determine from the face of the electronic
10 docket sheet which numbered exhibits are filed in which attachments.
11 Respondents must send a hard copy of all pleadings and indices of
12 exhibits **ONLY** filed for this case to the Clerk of Court, 400 S. Virginia St.,
13 Reno, NV, 89501, directed to the attention of "Staff Attorney" on the
14 outside of the mailing address label.
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18 DATED THIS 2nd day of December 2022.
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22 ANNE R. TRAUM
23 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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